

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A tank holder comprising:
  - a liquid discharge head;
  - a tank mounting portion to which a liquid tank
  - 5 for accommodating liquid to be supplied to the liquid discharge head is detachably mounted;
  - a terminal for transmitting a recording signal to said liquid discharge head;
  - a liquid supplying tube which is placed on the
  - 10 mounting surface of said mounting portion on which said liquid tank is mounted and supplies the liquid supplied from said liquid tank to said liquid discharge head;
  - a peripheral wall which is provided upright
  - 15 around said mounting surface of said tank mounting portion and forms a space for accommodating said liquid tank;
  - a first engagement portion which is provided at one side wall of the peripheral wall and engaged with
  - 20 a first engagement protrusion provided at a part of said liquid tank; and
  - a second engagement portion which is provided at the other side wall of said peripheral wall opposing said one side wall and engaged with a second
  - 25 engagement protrusion provided at the other portion of said liquid tank,
  - wherein the height of at least said one side

wall of said peripheral wall is lower than the height  
of said liquid tank to be mounted, and when said  
liquid tank is mounted to the tank mounting portion,  
at least one side surface of said peripheral wall  
5 abuts the side surface of said liquid tank.

2. The tank holder according to claim 1,  
wherein the height of the engagement surface of said  
second engagement portion with which said liquid tank  
10 engages from said mounting surface is higher than  
that in the case of said first engagement portion.

3. The tank holder according to claim 1,  
wherein said tank mounting portion is divided into  
15 two areas so that a liquid tank accommodating a black  
ink is mounted to one area and a liquid tank  
accommodating three color inks is loaded onto the  
other area, the area of said tank mounting portion on  
which the liquid tank accommodating a black ink is  
20 mounted is provided with a liquid supplying pipe for  
black ink and the area of said tank mounting portion  
on which the liquid tank accommodating three color  
inks is mounted is provided with three liquid  
supplying tubes for the respective colors.

25

4. The tank holder according to claim 1,  
wherein when said liquid tank is removed from said

tank mounting portion, said one side surface of said liquid tank abuts the upper end of said one side wall of said tank mounting portion, said one side surface of said liquid tank is supported by said upper end,  
5 and a rotational operation is utilized.

5. A liquid tank configured so as to be attachable or detachable to the tank holder of claim 1 comprising:

10 a container main body for accommodating liquid;  
an air communication portion for communicating the inside of said container main body with air;

a supplying port which is provided on the bottom surface of said container main body in the  
15 state the liquid tank is mounted to said tank holder and supplies the liquid to said liquid discharge head;

a first engagement protrusion which is provided at one side surface of said liquid tank and engaged  
20 with the first engagement portion provided at one side wall of a peripheral wall for constituting said tank mounting portion; and

a lever portion with a second engagement protrusion which is engaged with the second  
25 engagement portion provided at the other side wall of said peripheral wall opposing said one side wall and provided so as to be elastically displaced,

wherein the protruding amount of said first engagement protrusion from one side surface of said liquid tank is smaller than the distance from the bottom surface of said container main body to said first engagement protrusion.

6. The liquid tank according to claim 5, wherein the lower surface side of said first engagement protrusion facing the bottom surface side is formed in an inclined surface which is inclined upward from its proximal end toward its distal end.

7. The liquid tank according to claim 5, wherein when said container is removed from said tank holder, said lever portion is elastically displaced toward the container side, so that the engagement state of said second engagement portion is released.

8. The liquid tank according to claim 5, said lever portion is provided with an operating portion which is operated at the time of removing said container from said tank holder.

9. The liquid tank according to claim 5, wherein in the state where said container is mounted to said tank holder, the position of said second engagement protrusion from said bottom surface is

higher than the position of said first engagement protrusion.

10. The liquid tank according to claim 5,  
5 wherein said second engagement protrusion is placed,  
in the state of being engaged with said tank holder,  
at the inner side of said tank holder with respect to  
the outer peripheral surface of said peripheral wall  
of said tank holder.

10

11. The liquid tank according to claim 5,  
wherein a negative pressure generator for holding  
liquid is provided within said container.

15 12. The liquid tank according to claim 11,  
wherein a fiber member made of fibrous material is  
provided on said supplying portion within said  
container.

20 13. The liquid tank according to claim 5,  
wherein in the state where said container is mounted  
to said tank holder, said one side surface of said  
container abuts the inner surface of the peripheral  
wall of said tank holder opposing said one side  
25 surface, and when said container is removed from said  
tank holder, said one side surface of said container  
abuts the upper end of said peripheral wall of said

tank holder and said container is rotated with the upper end being a supporting point.

14. The liquid tank according to claim 13,  
5 wherein when said container abuts said upper end of said peripheral wall of said tank holder to be rotated, its center of rotation is at a position which is equal to or less than 1/2 of the height of said container from said bottom surface.

10

15. The liquid tank according to claim 5, wherein an ink is loaded within said ink container.

16. A method for attaching or detaching a  
15 liquid tank with respect to a tank holder to which said liquid tank accommodating liquid is mounted, comprising the step of:

rotating said liquid tank with respect to said tank holder with the upper end of peripheral wall of  
20 said tank holder which surrounds said liquid tank mounted to said tank holder being a supporting point and removing said liquid tank.